

SCHROEDER FILES FOIA REQUEST ON  
MILITARY FELLOWS

Representative Pat Schroeder (D-CO) today filed a Freedom of Information Act request for copies of all documents pertaining to the military personnel on loan to members of the House and the Senate.

Schroeder has questioned the use of military personnel by members of Congress after reports that the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich had used officers on loan from the Pentagon to study how to maintain Republican party unity. Schroeder filed the FOIA request after three letters to Secretary of Defense, William Perry sent last June went unanswered.

"Assigning military personnel to work in Congressional offices raises some serious conflicts of interest. Moreover, the Pentagon has no idea how many people are over here, or what they are doing," Schroeder said. She added, "this lack of accountability is ridiculous and is costing the taxpayers millions."

The letter, which appears below, was sent to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

"Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act I hereby request copies of any and all documents including, but not limited to, letters, memoranda, and e-mail, for the period January 1993 to date between members of congress (both House and Senate) and [DOD/Army/Navy/Air Force/Joint Chiefs] concerning the assignment of interns, fellows, or detailees to congressional offices. The request includes any documents between [DOD/Army/Navy/Air Force/Joint Chiefs] officials in reference to congressional requests for such assignments.

"I also request copies of any and all [DOD/Army/Navy/Air Force/Joint Chiefs] regulations on the subject of interns, fellows, and detailees."

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 28, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM PERRY,  
Secretary, Department of Defense,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PERRY: The disclosure in the September 30 Roll Call that military personnel and facilities have been and are continuing to be used for partisan political purposes is extremely troubling. These activities are no doubt a violation of DoD and House regulations, not to mention federal law.

But instead of taking action to do something about this scandal, you have ignored it.

As you are well aware, I asked you for information about these activities last June, three months ago. Not only have you not answered my letters, I haven't even received the courtesy of an acknowledgement. As a result, six weeks ago I filed a series of Freedom of Information Act requests. I am sure your staff is doing its best to bury these requests. In fact, one of your staff members recently told a reporter—"oh, she's retiring, we'll just wait her out."

Your stonewalling on my inquiries into the use of military personnel comes in the wake of a string of troubling disclosures involving the defense department: the abandonment of POW's in North Korea; the bungling of the investigation into the Gulf War syndrome; the negligence in Saudi Arabia that resulted in the deaths of 19 Americans; and the discovery of certain U.S. army training manuals that advocated torture, blackmail, and other illegal, immoral activities.

I would like a full report about the use of military personnel in the congress and I would like it now.

Sincerely,

PAT SCHROEDER,  
Congresswoman.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TRUST FUND

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of 2 U.S.C. 154, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 102-246, the Chair appoints the following member on the part of the House to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board:

Mr. Edwin L. Cox, Dallas TX, to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Marguerite S. Roll.

IT'S OFFICIAL: CLINTON BREAKS PROMISE ON BOSNIA DEADLINE

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I had come over here to talk about something that was very alarming to me, and certainly to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. WALKER, about the Clinton administration's shielding a report that is critical of the Clinton administration on antidrug policy, particularly using executive privilege to bury politically damaging information, which talks about a lack of leadership in the fight against drugs. That, to me, is alarming, considering the seriousness of the situation. But on the way over, I happened to be approached by others who pointed out something even more alarming.

Mr. Speaker, it has just come to me that President Clinton is going to try to keep our troops in Bosnia longer than he told the American people. What many of us have been predicting all year long was confirmed yesterday by Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon when he reported that 5,000 new, and I repeat new, troops were being deployed to Bosnia from Germany and would stay there until mid-March, way beyond the December 20 deadline for bringing our troops home.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are certainly capable of recalling that last year, when President Clinton ordered this ludicrous mission, he told us all that our troops would be home by December 20. It was not believable then, and the mid-March deadline is not believable now. I am afraid this thing is going to turn into another Vietnam, going on and on and on.

Mark my words: If President Clinton is reelected, he will immediately move to extend this new deadline, further exposing our troops to harm, and further squandering our precious military resources that are defense budgeted and which the American taxpayer can ill-afford.

Mr. Speaker, American troops have no business being in Bosnian beyond

that December 20 deadline. The Bosnian tragedy was always and remains mostly a civil war. American foreign policy has never been based on inserting our own military personnel into the middle of these civil war situations, until the Clinton administration took office. Rather, our policy has always been preserving peace through strength by maintaining our alliances, our treaties with other countries, and only deploying troops when sovereign allies were under external attack or vital American interests were at stake; in other words, when other countries were being invaded by another country, like in Kuwait, that was reason for us to defend our treaty allies. This certainly is not. Bosnia does not meet this test, and it never did.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring those troops home, as the President promised.

PARTING REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this will probably be my last presentation in the House of Representatives, as I am not returning for the 105th Congress. I would like to kind of wrap up my career and put a few things straight on the RECORD.

I have learned a lot and gained a lot of knowledge. I am a product of public education. I was born in Central Los Angeles back in 1932, and it was a tough town then in 1932, as it is now. I was always taught to believe that you will be responsible for things you do and things you do to one another, and you have to pay the consequences when you have violated somebody else's either personal or private rights.

This country has changed a great deal since 1932, all the way through the thirties and forties and fifties, until today you do not have a right to retaliate in any way, manner, shape or form, no matter how many people cast disparaging remarks upon you, insult you, even go as far as trying to spit on you today.

I was reminded, and I have made a lot of press lately for using a gesture to the Sierra Club, and one of my Congress friends here reminded me that before Nelson Rockefeller became Vice President of the United States, he used the same gesture one time in his frustration.

I am from a different time and I am in a different place, and I would like to go back to the old days when people were responsible for their reactions and paid the consequences when they tread upon another individual's rights.

I came to Congress with a very interesting background. I spent most of my private life in the corporate world. I am, as I said before, a product of public education. I went off in 1952 during the